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VOLUME LXV NUMBER 19530 WEDNESDAY MARCH 24 1997 ADAR 19 5757 4 THU AL-QADAH 1417 NIS 450 (ETR NIS 380)

Maccabi stays alive in Europe

Sports, Page 10

Will Israel go for gas?

Money Magazine

Beatle becomes Sir Paul

World News, Page 5

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Netanyahu in Moscow
Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow. Story, Page 12.

5 MKs: Boycott Migdal

By DAVID HARRIS

A group of some five MKs is to call for a national boycott of Migdal Insurance this afternoon, following an announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange that Assicurazioni Generali and Bank Leumi have agreed to Migdal's sale, Knesset sources said last night.

There is extreme anger among MKs, who represent a variety of parties, the sources said, that the deal has been allowed to go ahead while there is still a dispute over Generali's alleged continued refusal to pay out on life-insurance policies that Holocaust victims had taken out.

Knesset insurance sub-committee chairman Michael Kleiner (Gesher) is one of those leading the campaign against the Italian-based company, one of Europe's largest insurers.

Last night at least one MK was considering introducing a Migdal bill into the Knesset. The bill would insist the \$300 million deal not be allowed until the company pay compensation, on the grounds that it is acting immorally.

Leumi, Migdal's current owner,

Continued on Page 9

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday ordered invitations issued to the US, Russia, the European Union, Norway, and Japan to attend a Gaza conference on Saturday to decide what the Oslo Accords have to say regarding recent Israeli decisions on Jerusalem and redeployment.

Officials in his office last night said Arafat called a meeting of his security chiefs to discuss the deteriorating situation.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said he had been asked to issue the invitations yesterday, but that so far he had received no responses.

Israeli officials were said to be trying to persuade the US not to send a representative, however US Consul-General in Jerusalem Edward Abington would attend the meeting, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said yesterday.

"If an invitation is formally issued to the US, we'll be there," Burns told reporters. "We understand the level of frustration on the part of the Palestinians. But the only way something good is going to happen is if they continue to talk to the Israeli government, and

buffeted by some fairly significant Israeli government decisions over the last couple of weeks," so holding the conference is "appropriate," Burns said, adding that the US disputes reports that Arafat has cut off talks with Israel. Burns said that US peace team coordinator Dennis Ross "is not aware that

Ullback Phase I

there has been a ban on contacts, and he thinks that some contacts are ongoing, which is a good thing."

He said that President Bill Clinton, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and Ross are involved in the Israeli-Palestinian track on an "almost daily basis."

Foreign Minister David Levy called a news conference in Jerusalem to protest the plan. "Any attempt to bring about international intervention is likely, and I warn against a danger that Israel does not want, is likely to freeze the peace process," Levy said. "Any attempt for international intervention... will lead to a freeze

on the issue of Har Homa, Netanyahu said: "We're not building a settlement... we're building a neighborhood in the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem, which is done every day in Amman, in Gaza, in Cairo, and in Moscow."

Erekat said the invitations were issued because Levy in his meeting with Arafat's deputy and Oslo architect Mahmoud Abbas on Sunday rejected his appeal to have an Israeli-led team talk with a

Continued on Page 2

not to be held hostage to Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Since he values their own personal friendship, Netanyahu said he is "baffled by the personal attacks against me." His only conclusion is that Hussein is "not being fully apprised of the true picture" of Israel's security situation.

The three-page letter by Hussein strongly suggests that the rift between the two leaders is far deeper than has been previously acknowledged. Specifically, Hussein questions Netanyahu's assertion that he is committed to peace, just as he questions that Netanyahu is being forced to build Har Homa due to coalition pressure.

Hussein writes:

"My distress is genuine and deep over the accumulating tragic actions which you have initiated at the head of the government of Israel, making peace - the worthiest objective of my life - appear more and more like a distant elusive mirage."

"I could remain aloof if the very lives of all Arabs and Israelis and their future were not fast sliding towards an abyss of bloodshed and disaster, brought about by fear and despair."

"Your course of actions seems bent on destroying all I believe in or

Hussein: PM's policy leading bloodshed

The king's letter

Text of letter sent from Jordan's King Hussein to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on March 9:

Prime Minister, My distress is genuine and deep over the accumulating tragic actions which you have initiated at the head of the government of Israel, making peace - the worthiest objective of my life - appear more and more like a distant elusive mirage. I could remain aloof if the very lives of all Arabs and Israelis and their future were not fast sliding towards an abyss of bloodshed and disaster, brought about by fear and despair.

I frankly cannot accept your repeated excuse of having to act the way you do under great duress and pressure. I cannot believe that the people of Israel seek bloodshed and disaster and oppose peace. Nor can I believe that the most constitutionally powerful prime minister in Israeli history would act on other than his total convictions. The saddest reality that has been dawning on me is that I do not find you by my side in working to fulfill God's will for the final reconciliation of all the descendants of the children of Abraham.

Your course of actions seem bent on destroying all I believe in or have striven to achieve with the Hashemite family since Faisal the First and Abdullah to the present times. You cannot send me assurances that you would not sanction any further construction of settlements and tell me of your decision to construct two roads to help all concerned Israelis and Palestinians alike and then renege on your commitment. In pushing matters to the point of securing a US veto at the Security Council, you have ill served the image and interest of your major ally and benefactor and our partner in peace making as the honest balanced peace broker.

Mr. Prime Minister, if it is your intention to maneuver our Palestinian brethren into inevitable violent resistance, then order your bulldozers into the proposed settlement site without doing much which is needed in recognition of Palestinian and Arab sensitivity, anger and despair and ameliorating the situation, then order the young Israeli members of your powerful armed forces surrounding Palestinian towns to commit wanton murder and mayhem, possibly resulting in creating yet a fresh exodus of hapless Palestinians from their, and their ancestors, homeland and bury the peace process for all times.

On the question of your withdrawal from territories you have committed Israel, before the US, Jordan, and the world, to complete the process by mid-1998, what good did it serve to offer such an insignificant first phase withdrawal? Why the apparent continued deliberate humiliation of your so called Palestinian partners? Can any worthwhile relationship thrive in the absence of mutual respect and trust?

Why are Palestinians still confirming that their agricultural products still not awaiting entry into Israel and export? Why the delay when it is known that unless work is authorized to commence on the Gaza port, before the end of this month, the complete project would suffer a year's delay? Finally, the Gaza Airport - all of us have addressed the subject numerous times with a view to having a legitimate Palestinian need met and to give their leaders and people their own free access to the world rather than their present confinement and need to exit and return through other sovereign territories.

Continued on Page 5

have striven to achieve with the Hashemite family since Faisal the First and Abdullah of present times."

"Mr. Prime Minister, if it is your intention to maneuver our Palestinian brethren into inevitable violent resistance, then order your bulldozers into the proposed settlement site without doing much which is needed in recognition of

Palestinian and Arab sensitivity, anger and despair and ameliorating the situation. Then order the young Israeli members of your powerful armed forces surrounding Palestinian towns to commit wanton murder and mayhem, possibly resulting in creating yet a fresh exo-

Continued on Page 5

Five-year-old's savvy prevents further casualties in Hizbullah attack

By DAVID RUDGE

Inquiries into the abortive Hizbullah car-bomb attack in the security zone on Monday have revealed that a major catastrophe was averted - thanks to a local five-year-old boy.

An IDF soldier was moderately wounded and two Lebanese civilians were lightly hurt in the blast. Senior IDF sources stressed, however, that the outcome would have

been far worse had it not been for the youngster and his family and the quick action of South Lebanese Army and IDF troops in the area.

Israel yesterday lodged an official complaint with the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee over the incident. The group is to meet at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura on Thursday.

The inquiries revealed that the car had been stolen in Huleh, a Shiite village not far from the scene of the blast, and that about 200 kg. of explosives had been planted in it. The owner of the white Toyota has been living abroad for several years. Members of the SLA's security

apparatus conducted widespread searches in Huleh village in the wake of the blast and a number of people were detained for questioning on suspicion of collaborating with Hizbullah activists.

The car bomb was then driven to a spot on a main route used frequently by IDF and SLA troops, as well as local residents, and parked virtually alongside a house belonging to the Shabour family on the outskirts of Tel al-Kabah village.

The father sent one of his sons, aged five, to check on the suspicious vehicle and he discovered a man inside armed with a rifle. He informed his father, who went to investigate himself and was threatened by the gunman.

The man went back to his family, and led them all out of the house, through a rear door, and alerted SLA troops nearby, who in turn informed IDF troops who were on patrol in the area.

The Hizbullah gunman realized he had been spotted and fled the scene, after operating the device in the car. SLA troops spotted him and opened fire, but apparently without hitting him.

The huge bomb, packed with metal ball bearings to make it more deadly, exploded seconds later, wounding two of the family's children and a soldier from the IDF patrol.

The soldier, whose unit was about 200 meters away from the

car bomb when it exploded, was hit by one of the ball bearings that penetrated his shoulder. He is recovering in Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

The front of the Shabour family's house, as well as their car, were destroyed by the blast. Brig-Gen. Yom-Tov Samiya, commander of the Galilee Division, praised the family's actions and said the damage to the house would be repaired free of charge as a gesture of appreciation.

The SLA has stepped up road blocks and more checks are now being carried out on roads in the security zone as part of efforts to thwart future car or suicide bomb attacks.



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NEWS

in brief

Kahalani to decide on closure of PA offices

The Palestinian Authority was granted a 24-hour extension yesterday by the Ministry of Internal Security to provide documents proving that the four Palestinian offices in eastern Jerusalem slated to be closed are not affiliated with the PA. Jawad Boulos, the legal representative of the PA who met with ministry officials on Monday to argue the case against closure, asked for the extension because of a death in the family. A spokesman for the ministry said she expected a meeting to take place this afternoon, after which Minister Avigdor Kahalani will make a decision on whether to close the offices.

Eli Wohlgeleit

Draft law defines GSS authority, activities

The authority and activities of the General Security Service have, for the first time since the establishment of the state, been defined by a draft law. The proposed law also defines the means of appointing the head of the service, the obligation of those employed in the service to report to the cabinet and the Knesset, and restrictions on employees and their spouses, among other things. However, it does not include methods of interrogation, such as those defined by the Landau Commission, the Justice Ministry spokesman said.

Batsheva Tsur

Two killed, two injured on roads

Felice Semanto, a member of Kibbutz Yad Hannah, was killed yesterday when his car collided with a truck at the entrance to the kibbutz. According to the police, he had failed to stop at the stop sign by the exit and was struck and killed by the truck.

In another fatal accident, a pedestrian was struck and killed by a car last night in Haifa.

Two people were injured in road accidents in the western Galilee last night. In one, the driver was critically injured after his car overturned while fleeing from the police after they had beckoned him to stop at a junction. The driver, who is recovering in Nahariya Government Hospital, had had his license permanently revoked.

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Latest Arrow test successful

By ARNIE O'SULLIVAN

Yesterday's successful test launch of the Arrow anti-ballistic missile marked a significant step toward an initial deployment of the defense system against surface-to-surface missiles by the end of next year.

It was the fourth test launch of the Arrow 2 missile and the Defense Ministry said the Arrow succeeded in locking onto and destroying the target missile fired from a navy ship. However, it said a malfunction in the warhead prevented the Arrow from detonating its warhead. The target was destroyed by the direct hit.

Engineers at Israel Aircraft Industries are analyzing the data to evaluate and confirm

the results. Interception is supposed to take place between 10 kilometers and 50 kilometers above the ground.

The test launch of the interceptor took place yesterday afternoon at the Palmachim Air Base north of Ashdod. The test marked the first time that the system's Green Pine control radar and Citron Tree battle management center participated.

"Both worked according to plan and fulfilled all the test objectives," a ministry statement said.

The statement added that US and Israeli engineering teams were "very satisfied with the test results and are confident that they constitute significant forward progress toward a total integrated weapon system."

The mainly US-financed missile was last tested in August. Then it made its first impressive "metal-on-metal" direct hit of a target missile at high altitude. Another test is planned for this summer.

News of the successful test launch came as Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was meeting with King Hussein at his palace in Amman. The monarch told Mordechai it was a "great achievement."

Mordechai later said he emphasized to Hussein that the Arrow could be used for regional defense.

Mordechai later praised the test and said that the "significant and positive progress" of the Arrow project is bringing Israel to the forefront of world technology.

The IDF already has ordered two Arrow batteries, which are expected to be ready by the end of next year. Their deployment is expected to greatly enhance the protection from Scud surface-to-surface missiles, but will hardly be enough to completely eliminate the threat.

The US and Israel are financing the Arrow's development. So far, the project has cost \$700 million, with Israel's share being \$250m.

The projected cost is about \$1.6 billion, but analysts have reportedly said the missile could cost many times that figure. Because of US financing, Israel has agreed to give the US access to the Arrow's research and development data.

Hanegbi, NRP slam bid to change Direct Election Law

By BATSHEVA TSUR and LIAT COLLINS

Attempts by MKs to change the law governing the direct election of the prime minister are "immoral and unconstitutional," Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said yesterday.

"It is a manipulative development on the part of those who are initiating it from the coalition and from the opposition," Hanegbi told Israel Radio, referring to recent attempts to alter the law so that a majority of 61 MKs rather than the current 81 could dismiss the prime minister. Hanegbi, arguing that the change would be proven unconstitutional, said that while those in favor claim the Knesset needs to be strengthened, it would have the opposite effect.

"The outcome would be a probably unprecedented blow that would undermine the sovereign status of the Knesset as the result of the fact, I believe, that the law would be overturned by the High Court of Justice. To the best of my knowledge, it would be the first time that the [court] would intervene in the legislation of the Knesset."

For years it had been argued that there had to be a division of powers, Hanegbi said. The change in the law would be "contrary to any principle of constitutional democracy. It would change the rules during the game... Despite the fact that the High Court is in favor of restraint, I believe it would be forced to intervene to overturn the law passed by the Knesset."

National Religious Party leader and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer also came out yesterday against amending the Direct Election Law, suggesting changes "are cheap tricks that could harm the party's image."

The NRP MKs and ministers yesterday continued their internal discussions on a suggestion by three of their members — Shaul Yabalom, Porat, and Zvi Hendel — to leave the coalition.

The faction is asking for a meeting with the prime minister on his return from Moscow. The NRP has issued several demands on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu "to renew our confidence in the government's ability to continue to strengthen our hold on the Land of Israel and Jewish settlement in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza," in faction chairman Hanan Porat's words.

Hanegbi confident he won't be indicted

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said yesterday that, after six weeks of investigation into the Bar-On affair, he still believes that Channel 1 did not have solid evidence for the charges it had aired.

"My opinion has not changed," Hanegbi said in an Israel Radio interview. "It seems to me that, after all that has been published, and of course I treat these publications [in the media] with reservations, that there is nothing left but dust and rubble... with regard to the charges of Hebron for Bar-On."

Hanegbi said: "Like everyone else, I am awaiting the findings, and I have full confidence in the State Attorney's Office."

Earlier, ministry spokesman Ety Eshed denied a radio report that State Attorney Ehas Arbel planned to hold a press conference to expose the non-ethical public aspects of the affair. The investigation is not yet over and therefore nothing has been planned, Eshed said.

Mubarak slams 'Post'

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak reportedly charged *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday with publishing editorial cartoons and articles that he said attack him, his government, and the Egyptian people.

Mubarak said the *Post* and other Israeli newspapers defame Egypt, according to a participant in a luncheon hosted in Mubarak's honor by the House international relations committee. The source said Mubarak "came prepared" following complaints about antisemitism in the Egyptian press voiced last week by several committee members who met with Foreign Minister Amr Moussa.

At the luncheon, Mubarak's aide distributed material from various Israeli newspapers that he said are "racist" against "the Arabs and the Egyptian people," the source said. After Congressman Sam Gejdenson, whose parents are Holocaust survivors, said the Egyptian press's use of swastikas was offensive, Mubarak responded

that he is sympathetic but could take no action on the matter.

He urged Americans and Israelis to take up the issues directly with the Egyptian media. Despite dissatisfaction in some quarters of Congress with Egypt's role in the peace process, the meeting was cordial and friendly, the source said.

Congressman Tom Lantos, a leading critic of Egypt on the committee, said yesterday he believes that Egypt and Mubarak "are playing a positive role." He also said Mubarak had invited him to visit Cairo later this month, and that he would likely do so.

Committee members, however, did not issue any threat against the Egyptian aid package, participants said.

Mubarak said afterward that his criticism of the US veto of the UN Security Council resolution on Har Homa "shouldn't shake relations" between the countries.

Standing beside Mubarak committee chairman Benjamin Gilman said the meeting indicated how "strong our bonds of friendship" are.

UN General Assembly begins Har Homa debate

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Israel is expected to take a beating today as the UN General Assembly opens a debate on the Har Homa project. The debate comes only days after the US vetoed a Security Council resolution against Israel's plan to build 6,500 housing units in the Jerusalem neighborhood.

The assembly debate is expected essentially to replicate last week's two-day council debate. Nearly 50 states addressed the council, with many characterizing Har Homa as part of an overall Israeli plan to ensure the "Judaization of Jerusalem" before the beginning of the final status negotiations with the Palestinians.

"I am going to tell the General Assembly that the UN is not the forum to discuss contentious issues between Israel and the Palestinians," David Peleg, the Israeli charge d'affaires, said yesterday. "We think it is wrong that, whenever there is a problem in negotiations, the Arabs rush to the UN, hoping to impose their view."

Peleg has made this argument on several occasions since he became the acting head of the Israeli Mission last May. "There are

some basic truths that are worth repeating, like, the UN is not the appropriate forum to discuss this," he said.

Israel is expected to lose any vote by an overwhelming majority. Assembly resolutions, however, are not binding.

Britain was one of the sponsors of last week's council's resolution. "The council has a responsibility to pronounce itself on this matter," British Ambassador John Weston said on Friday.

"With all due respect to the United Kingdom, it is up to the [two] sides to decide. This is one of the cores of the peace process," Peleg said, adding that today's assembly session "reminds me of an era predating the peace process, when this was part of the Arab political warfare against Israel."

"My concern is that heated arguments and strongly worded resolutions may have a negative impact on the peace process, may encourage the Palestinians to take more negative positions, and may encourage some people to take violent steps. All these dangers are in this debate," Peleg said. "My worry is not the result of the vote, because this will not decide the future of the peace process."

US ACCEPTS

Continued from Page 1

Palestinian legal team about the wording and intention of Oslo accords one and two.

"We urged them to sit with us and look at the provisions of the interim agreement... We urged them to bring their lawyers and they refused. We urged them to call the attention of the countries which signed with us and let them be the judge. They refused," Erekat, who attended the meeting, said.

While meetings with Israeli officials are informally suspended, meetings arranged between Arafat and non-government Israeli groups are continuing.

Today a group of 100 Israelis, mostly small businessmen are scheduled to meet with him in Gaza.

Meanwhile, President Ezer Weizman last night confirmed that Saeb Erekat and Mahmoud Abbas had approached him to work towards bridging the gaps with Israel's leaders, "so that there would not be an explosion."

The president also called for greater efforts towards putting the process back on track. "We are in a state of crisis with the Palestinian people, after having already gone a long way," Weizman told a gathering of engineers at the Jerusalem International Conference Center.

"I believe there is a large force

that wants to see the way of peace having the upper hand. It is a shame that we should go backwards now," he said. "We all have to make a serious effort" so that the current confrontation does not turn "into a war whose consequences no one can predict."

Weizman said, adding that he had conveyed this to the Palestinians.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Ms. Miriam Hersh will speak about Florence. From 1:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. there will be a car and plane sale at the YMCA in aid of local charities.

מכתבון האוכל

With deep sorrow we announce the death of our beloved

Dr KARL TH. LEDERER ז"ל

The funeral took place yesterday.
Please refrain from condolence visits.

Inl, Eytan, Ido and family

To Feigie & Rubin Zimmerman
Deepest condolences on the passing of
your mother and mother-in-law

FREDA YAMPOLSKI

*Yossi Goldberg
Mayor of Metulla*

[]* Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem
The Board of Directors and the Staff

extend their sincere condolences to
Feigie and Ruby Zimmerman

on the passing of

FREDA YAMPOLSKI

The *shloshim* memorial service for

ROBERT (Bob) BROWN ז"ל

will take place on Thursday, March 13, 1997 (4 Adar II 5757)
at Har Hamaenhot, Jerusalem.

We will meet at the parking lot at 3:30 p.m.

Following the graveside service, there will be a *minha*-ma'ariv service and study session (6:30 p.m.) at the Ramat Zion Congregation, 68 Rehov Bar Kochba, French Hill.

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7-year Appel trial ends in acquittal

By RAINE MARCUS

Following a seven-year trial, businessman and building contractor David Appel was acquitted on charges of theft and fraud by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday. The charges relate to the evacuation of a transit camp in Kfar Sava's Yoseftal neighborhood in the mid-1980s, when Appel was accused of misusing funds he received from the Housing Ministry.

Appel, whose name has been linked to the ongoing Bar-On investigation, refused to comment after the verdict, but his lawyer, Moshe Yisrael, said not only was his client innocent of all charges, but had contributed to the poor and needy in the neighborhood.

The case surfaced in the 1980s when the Housing Ministry

allowed Appel to act as a sub-contractor to find alternative housing for Yoseftal residents and for homeless in the area. Appel received loans and subsidies from the Housing Ministry and was subsequently indicted for the theft of NIS 2.4 million.

The prosecution maintained that he only used part of the subsidies for transferring residents and pocketed monies for his own gain.

In giving his verdict, Judge Yehoshua Gross ruled that the prosecution had neither succeeded in proving beyond a shadow of a doubt that Appel stole money allocated for houses nor that he fraudulently received money.

In his 90-page verdict, Gross described the situation in the mid-1980s at Yoseftal as a squalor. The Housing Ministry gave sub-

sidized loans to residents to enable them to purchase homes. The ministry turned to Appel, who held 50 percent of the shares in the Shalom Geinish Construction Company, to help rehouse the residents and to allocate mortgages to those entitled. The ministry determined the amount of money each family was entitled to, and a grant was paid after the residents signed an evacuation agreement.

Appel began negotiating with residents on the terms of their evacuation, and subsequently requested grants and loans from the Housing Ministry. He was accused of giving residents alternative housing for much less than the subsidies he received from the ministry, and was charged with keeping the rest of the money.



Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani cuts the ribbon yesterday inaugurating a police station in Bat Yam, as Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz (second from left), Tel Aviv police chief Cmdr. Shlomo Aharonishky (fourth), and Bat Yam Mayor Yehoshua Sagi (right) look on. The new station will house local police as well as the National Fraud Squad, which has been moved there from Jaffa. (Dana Stern/Jerusalem Sun)

BACKGROUND

Appel - the quintessential back-room man

By HERB KEINON

David Appel, a man characterized recently in the press as one of the three men - along with Avigdor Lieberman and Aryeh Deri - running the country, was unknown to much of the public until Ayala Hasson's report in January that opened the Pandora's box known as the Bar-On Affair. According to Hasson, Appel was the brains behind the alleged attempt to appoint a "pliable" attorney-general. Appel is the person who, according to Hasson, told Deri that he had an attorney-general who "will be ours." Appel vehemently denies ever uttering these words.

According to Hasson's scenario, Appel - like Deri - had a vested interest in the appointment of a "friendly" attorney-general, since Appel, too, was enmeshed in a long, drawn-out trial that hung heavy over his career. It is this trial that ended yesterday with Appel's acquittal in Tel Aviv District Court.

One of the questions that Appel's acquittal raises is whether he would have risked trying to hand-pick a "malleable" attorney-general if it looked like the trial was going in his favor. But then again, maybe two months ago the seven-year case looked different?

Immediately after the report on Channel 1, Appel replied with a strongly worded denial, declaring, "Somebody took advantage of Channel 1 to settle political accounts with me." He then backed this up with a libel lawsuit against Channel 1.

As to the political accounts, Appel, according to a lengthy story in *Yedioth Aharonot* last month, reportedly believes it may be an attempt to neutralize Foreign Minister David Levy. Appel is a Levy stalwart, and a key supporter - financial and otherwise - of Levy's Geshet Party.

A long-time Levy confidant, Appel is also close to Lieberman and Deri and has known Prime Minister Binjamin Netanyahu for years. Appel was an important middleman in the negotiations between Netanyahu and Levy that brought Levy back onto a joint ticket with Netanyahu.

Appel, a millionaire building contractor, made his initial fortune doing contract work for the Housing Ministry, when it was run by Levy.

The son of veteran Herut activist Avraham Appel, he is the quintessential back-room politician. He

says so himself. In the *Yedioth* interview, Appel said: "I don't need anybody. I don't need Bibi, I don't need [Jerusalem Mayor] Ehud [Olmert], I don't need Ivet [Avigdor Lieberman], I don't need [Finance Minister] Dan [Meridor]. Everyone needs me."

"I have a large group of friends," he continued, "and I'm not one who is not influential. Because of this, my friends and I want the people in the front to act according to our beliefs. I see that as a way of life, that I influence politics from the other side, from behind the scenes. My influence flows from my circle of friends... With this strength, I don't think that my influence on public affairs is any less than a minister. The opposite is true."

In the interview, Appel gave the following reasoning as proof that he was not involved in the Bar-On Affair.

"If I had wanted Roni Bar-On as the attorney-general, the appointment would have worked like a Swiss watch," he was quoted as saying. "Take my word. What, if Dudi Appel wanted to bring in Bar-On, he would not have been brought in?"

Appel has threatened *Yedioth* with a lawsuit for its story as well. Yesterday was not the first time charges or allegations against Appel have been dropped. He was arrested in the early '80s for allegedly attempting to bribe a tax authority official, but was released and later received a police apology. Another time he was arrested for allegedly suborning a witness - an arrest that also led nowhere. He has, however, been convicted for violating an order to stop construction of a project and for flagrantly violating building percentages on a Herzliya project.

In addition, Meretz MK Ran Cohen petitioned the High Court of Justice after Hasson's report, saying that Appel and Bar Association Chairman Dror Hoter-Yishai should be investigated for criminal activity in connection with the Ganei Aviv housing project. Hoter-Yishai controls Migdal Hazohar, the company which is building Ganei Aviv near Lod, and Appel also was heavily involved in the project, the petition said. Cohen claims that the two siphoned money away from Migdal Hazohar, and wants a police investigation. The police decided not to investigate in 1995, but now Cohen wants the court to force them to do so anyway.

David Appel vs. Channel 1

By RAINE MARCUS

Businessman David Appel was cited by Channel 1's *Mabar* news program as being the intermediary between his close friend Aryeh Deri and the Prime Minister's Office in the Bar-On for Hebron case.

Appel was a key figure in the scandal, said the report, which triggered the police investigation into the case. Appel, a former adviser to Foreign Minister David Levy and a Likud activist, was questioned several times by the police investigating team, and vehemently denied all allegations against him.

He slammed the press, especially Channel 1, accusing the media of downright lies. Then he filed a NIS 5 million law suit in Tel Aviv District Court accusing Channel 1 staff of willful slander.

The suit was filed against reporter Ayala Hasson, who broke the story, head of the news desk Rafik Halabi, and Broadcasting Authority Director-General Mordechai Kirschenbaum.

Appel said at the time that if awarded the money, he would donate it to charity.

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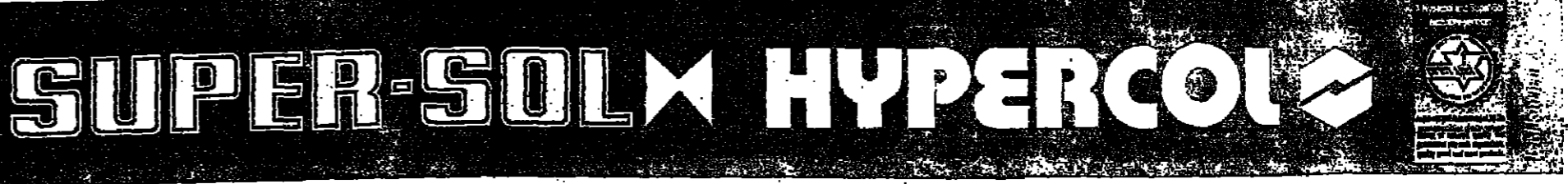
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NEWS
in brief

700,000 pupils, teachers without shelters

Some 700,000 pupils and teachers throughout the country lack proper emergency shelters, it was announced yesterday at a press conference in Tel Aviv preceding today's planned civil defense exercise in schools.

Mordechai: Employ disabled veterans

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has called on Israelis to employ handicapped IDF veterans, saying it was a duty that would help rehabilitate the disabled who "paid a heavy price and bear the scars of war."

Katsav, Arab ministers hold press conference

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav this week participated in a joint press conference with his Jordanian and Egyptian counterparts, Dr. Mamduh al Baltigi and Dr. Salah Rusheidat, at the ITB, the world's largest tourism fair, which is being held in Berlin.

Lod youth remanded till end of rape trial

The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday remanded till the end of his trial a 15-year-old Lod youth accused of raping and sodomizing a seven-year-old girl last month. He also is accused of abusing her 10-year-old brother and slashing another youth with a knife in the course of that attack, as well as of another attack on a different young girl.

Police shut down pirate radio station

Police shut down a pirate radio station broadcasting out of a Rishon LeZion bomb shelter yesterday, following severe disruptions at Ben-Gurion Airport the previous day due to interference in ground-to-air communications.

Weissman awarded NIS 70,000 in damages

The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday awarded damages of just under NIS 70,000 to Michael Weissman of Bat Yam, who was acquitted on charges of murdering his daughter, Nathalie.

Police fear murder may spark drug war

Lachish police expressed fears yesterday that the murder of 23-year-old Ashkelon drug-dealer Yariv Sa'ada could spark a chain of killings in the town. Sa'ada was shot from a passing car on Monday night and died later of his wounds in Barzilai hospital.



IDF troops arrest suspects in Dahariya yesterday following the knifing of a soldier guarding nearby Tenah Omarim. (AP)

IDF soldier stabbed by terrorists

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

IDF soldier Moshe Konstantin, 19, was stabbed 20 times in his head, stomach, and neck by two masked terrorists early yesterday morning while guarding the entrance to Tenah Omarim near Beersheba. The attackers fled, taking with them his weapon.

Protest halts Efrat construction

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

A group of Palestinians succeeded in halting excavation work on a plot of land known as Givat Hazayit on the outskirts of Efrat yesterday.

Konstantin's condition was satisfactory after undergoing a series of operations since the early morning hours. According to Amir Kitron, vice chairman of the regional council and a member of Tenah Omarim, Konstantin fought with his attackers and managed to fire three shots, wounding one of them, before summoning help over the settlement's communication system.

Ministry wants olim societies to play bigger 'absorption' role

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Olim societies are being asked to play a major role in aiding in the integration of newcomers in the country, Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein said yesterday.

Edelstein said at a study day for olim society activists in Jerusalem. He said it had been decided to look beyond the local authorities and other official bodies with whom the ministry already works.

Former prime minister Golda Meir once said: 'The Jewish Agency can't serve a glass of tea to an immigrant.' Even with the almost 700 workers we have at the Absorption Ministry, we don't imagine we can reach each every one of the 750,000 immigrants who came in the last big wave of immigration," said Edelstein.

Cheaper contraceptives would lower abortion rate, experts say

By ESTHER HECHT

The most effective way to reduce the number of abortions here is to include contraceptive devices in the

basket of services the health funds provide, according to experts who spoke before the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women yesterday.

tives would be offset by the drop in abortions the funds must pay for, they said.

The standard answer of the health funds - that they don't pay for preventive measures - is nonsense, because they do provide prevention in other areas, said Prof. Shlomo Mashiah, head of obstetrics and gynecology at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer.

The modern approach to contraception is to provide consultations in which individuals can choose the

devices best adapted to their lifestyles, but this isn't included in the basket of services either, said Dr. Ronny Shurkshat, chairman of the Israel Family Planning Association (IFPA).

The way to figure the cost of providing consultation is to estimate the price - in monetary outlay and in human suffering - of not providing it, he added. The number of legal abortions per year - about 16,000 - has remained constant since 1989.

There are also about 4,000 to 6,000 military zone on Monday after 150 Palestinians rioted at the site and clashed with IDF soldiers. The Palestinians attempted to stop bulldozers clearing the way for a new security road. Later, the Palestinian Authority claimed that the bulldozers were tearing down vineyards, almond and olive groves.

When a pregnancy does occur, the medical establishment should make termination easier for those who really need it, Mashiah said. One of the absurdities of current practice, says committee chairman Yael Dayan (Labor), is that a girl up to the age of 18 is entitled to a legal abortion, but the health funds pay for the abortion only if she is under 17. In Dayan's view, the law should be changed.

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SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT
"The Jerusalem Consort"
An Evening of Baroque Music
Miriam Meltzer - soprano
Idit Shemer - flute
Mima Herzog - viola da gamba
David Shemer - harpsichord
March 15
Concert at 20:30
Wine and Cheese at 20:00
Admission NIS 45; Museum members, olim, students, soldiers & seniors NIS 40.

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مركز من الرحيل

Yeltsin fires Russia gov't

By GREG MYRE

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin, saying he was fed up with his floundering government, decreed yesterday that the entire cabinet would resign except for the prime minister and his first deputy.

Yeltsin's order said a new cabinet would be formed within a week. The move is intended to give Yeltsin a fresh start as he returns to work full-time after being sidelined for most of the past eight months with heart trouble and a bout of pneumonia.

The Russian leader said last week the country was "still struggling in a flood of problems" and he pledged major personnel changes and a new series of reforms to revive an economy that has been shrinking for six straight years. "Everything will be all right. The government has a plan," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said.

But it remains unclear whether a change of faces in the Kremlin will lead to economic growth, an end to corruption and meaningful leadership as Russia continues to struggle. The economy is stalled with the country caught between the transition from the failed Soviet system to a market system. Yeltsin has repeatedly pledged to fix pressing problems, such as the millions of workers and pensioners who have gone unpaid for months,

but he has been unable to deliver. "The presidential decree has come on top of an economic crisis deepening since last fall," said Grigory Yavlinsky, a prominent liberal lawmaker. "The president wants to take some steps following his recuperation that show him ... on top of things." But Yavlinsky warned that "a personnel reshuffle alone will solve neither economic issues, nor internal policy problems." The prime minister and his first deputy, the newly appointed Anatoly Chubais, will retain their posts, according to government spokesman Igor Shchegolev.

All other members of the cabinet will be required to resign, the decree stated. That would appear to include the more than 50 people who head federal ministries, agencies and departments. Yeltsin's decree said he would streamline the government. For example, he plans to reduce the number of deputy prime ministers from the current 13, but did not give a figure. Some figures in non-economic positions may be retained in the new cabinet.

But Yeltsin was highly critical of his own administration in his nationally televised speech last week and he may be seeking to make a clean sweep. The president has delivered tongue-lashings to several top officials, including Defense Minister Igor Rodionov, who was rumored to be on the way out even before yesterday's announcement. While Yeltsin will be seeking quick improvements to social and economic problems, he has also stressed the urgency of military reform, and Rodionov has been unable to make any headway since his appointment last summer.

Chubais, Yeltsin's chief of staff previously, is a youthful reformer sure to be a powerful figure in the new government. Many Russians dislike Chubais for his role in the economic reforms, which many ordinary people blame for the country's woes. However, Western governments and bankers generally applaud Chubais as a highly competent administrator committed to developing a free-market system.

Valentin Yamashev, 39, a former journalist who helped Yeltsin write his memoirs, was named to replace Chubais as chief of staff yesterday. However, no other positions were filled immediately. Yeltsin's decree appeared aimed at circumventing the hard-line parliament, which must approve the president's choice of a new prime minister, according to the constitution.



A masked rebel guards fighter jets at the Albanian air force base at Kucove. The base fell into rebel hands on Monday as they took control of several southern towns, moving the insurgency to 85 kilometers from the capital, Tirana. (Reuters)

Rebels occupy Albania's political vacuum

News agencies

TIRANA — By proposing a coalition government, President Sali Berisha is counting on Albania's political forces to help rein in a swelling rebellion. It's doubtful, however, that the opposition has the authority to persuade rebels to lay down their weapons.

The US State Department yesterday welcomed the agreement between Berisha and the opposition.

"We now strongly urge all parties in Albania to implement this agreement, to implement the amnesty, the cease-fire, and to work towards a formation of the new government," spokesman Nicholas Burns said. "We were encouraged by the apparent decision of President Berisha today to begin to lift the state of emergency which was imposed, and we hope that leads very quickly to a rapid removal of the censorship provisions put in place by the Albanian government just last week," he said.

However, the insurgency manifests Berisha's deep unpopularity, especially in the rebellious south, and also is clear evidence of Albania's political vacuum, a yawning hole the opposition has not been able to fill.

Pandeli Majko, the foreign affairs secretary of the largest opposition party, the Socialists, said the insurgents will not be won over easily.

"I am shocked," Majko said. "It looks as if they have lost trust in any political solution." On Sunday, Berisha gave in to opposition demands for new elections and a new government not exclusively composed of Democratic Party members. The 10 parties agreed to a program for national reconciliation, which includes an amnesty for rebels and a gradual lifting of the weeklong state of emergency.

While politicians cling to the belief that a majority of Albanians approve of the agreement to reestablish order in the country, the unrest has continued to grow. Rebels have widened their control of towns in the wake of withdrawing army and police, taking over four more southern towns on Sunday and continuing to expand their territory up to yesterday.

"There are more contradictions every minute between what the politicians decide and what the people who are protesting want," said Brec Zogaj, a leading member of the opposition Democratic Alliance.

The rebellion was sparked by the failure of high-risk investment funds beginning in January, in which practically every Albanian family lost money.

In the public mind, Berisha's Democratic Party was deeply associated with the funds. The names of some investment companies appeared on Democratic Party campaign posters, and state television practically every night reports on this or that ruling party leader attending the inauguration of a new factory operated by the funds.

The opposition parties, led by the Socialists that succeeded the country's hard-line communists, made political capital out of the collapse of the funds. Many, but not all, of the protesters at initial demonstrations were Socialist Party supporters.

For a time, the Socialists could harness the investors' frustration and channel it against Berisha. However, along with the other parties, they have accepted that he will remain on the political scene for now — even though protesters have demanded that he go.

"Political parties apparently are getting out of the game," Majko said. "It's a very grave situation, we don't have contact with our local leaders (in the south)." Plagued by disunity and an incoherent program, the opposition has yet to put forth a single leader — one who could challenge Berisha.

White House firm on China lobbying cash

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House refused to back down yesterday in a public spat with the FBI over the handling of information that China might be trying to influence US elections with campaign contributions.

The White House insists the FBI restricted the information to two National Security Council officials. But the FBI says there was "no restriction whatsoever" on the information up the chain of command.

Presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said yesterday the FBI's statement is erroneous. He said it was possible the national security aides misunderstood the ground rules when they were briefed.

The two officials "made a conscious decision about how to handle information that they were given," he said.

This latest twist in the furor surrounding foreign political donations to the Democratic Party occurred Monday as a member of Congress said the FBI told her as early as 1991 that the Chinese government was interested in making campaign contributions to sway lawmakers.

China said yesterday it is too principled and too poor to waste money on US elections.

The row came as Senate Republicans prepared to authorize an investigation into illegal fundraising during the 1996 presidential and congressional campaigns.

Senators Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and Rep. Nancy Pelosi apparently were among a small circle of lawmakers wanted to look out for approaches from the Chinese, including campaign gifts that might be passed through intermediaries.

Clinton ordered an investigation into why he wasn't told when the FBI passed similar warnings to two National Security Council aides last June.

Gunman storms Detroit bank, kills four

DETROIT (AP) — A gunman shouting religious passages opened fire at a bank yesterday, killing four people before he was shot dead by police.

The man shot one person outside a Comerica bank branch, then stormed inside and started firing, Police Chief Isaiah McKinnon said.

Two of the dead were shot inside the bank as an employee hit an alarm, McKinnon said.

"It appears as if we have a person who walked in to kill," McKinnon said.

The gunman then grabbed a hostage, ran outside and shot the hostage before he exchanged fire with police and was killed, McKinnon said. No police officers were injured.

Inside the bank, the man was shouting religious passages and asking people to recite the Lord's Prayer. Deputy Chief Benny

Napoleon said. McKinnon initially described the shootings as an attempted bank robbery but later said it was not. "We are in the process of investigating to see if in fact there is the possibility of someone else being involved," McKinnon said.

LETTER

Continued from Page 1
I had requested permission and intended to fly President Arafat myself, in Jordan's official State Tristar, to the Palestinian airport of Gaza as I had requested earlier, during my Hebron intervention, to fly by a fixed wing aircraft, accepting your refusal then only because there were far more important issues at hand.

BLOODSHED

Continued from Page 1
The prime minister writes, "despite tremendous resistance from some in my own constituency, I have chosen the path of the Oslo process."

On a personal level, Netanyahu writes, "I have always appreciated the courage and resolve with which you have helped keep the peace process alive. I hold you in the highest esteem and I value your friendship and understanding. That is why I must confess that I am baffled by the personal level of the attacks against me."

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai claimed after his meeting with Hussein in Amman yesterday that he had been able to smooth over tensions. Senior defense officials said that Mordechai was advised not to travel to Amman yesterday, but he decided to go ahead with the trip, which had already been postponed two weeks ago, in order not to deepen the rift with the Jordanians. Ender, Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Kabariti said the peace process was facing a crisis and hinted that Jordan could suspend its moves to normalize ties with Israel.

Sir Paul of Pop

LONDON (Reuters) — Paul McCartney, the Beatle who joked 30 years ago about smoking marijuana in the Buckingham Palace toilets, went back to see Queen Elizabeth yesterday to collect a knighthood for helping to revolutionize pop music. The impish lad from Liverpool, one of the most successful songwriters in history, became Sir Paul in a centuries-old ceremony of pomp and solemnity.

But outside the palace, it was just like the old days as central London was treated to the screaming adulation that marked Beatlemania in the 1960s.

Hundreds of tourists and die-hard fans of the Fab Four, wearing Beatles t-shirts and badges, gathered outside the palace gates for a glimpse of McCartney. As they waited they sang old Beatles songs and played Beatles cassettes on sound systems. The crowds screamed as McCartney swept through the gates in his chauffeured limousine and he answered with a thumbs-up.

On the way out he lowered the car window to smile and wave to the fans. His wife Linda, who is fighting breast cancer, and his four children were not with him. McCartney admitted he was very nervous before the ceremony but said it had been a great experience.



Sir Paul McCartney poses with his award yesterday at Buckingham Palace. (Reuters)

"Proud to be British, wonderful day and it's a long way from a little terrace (street) in Liverpool," he told reporters. It was the second trip to Buckingham Palace for McCartney, 54, who has made an estimated £400 million (NIS2 billion) fortune from his talent for bal-

lads such as Yesterday and catchy pop songs like Band on the Run. Along with the other Beatles, McCartney collected an MBE (Member of the British Empire) medal in 1965 — and shocked the stuffy British establishment by joking that the band had smoked marijuana in the palace toilets. real issues is one thing, but for its own sake, I wonder. In any event, I have discovered that you have your own mindset and appear in no need for any advice from a friend. I deeply regret having to write you this personal message but it is my sense of responsibility and concern which has prompted me for posterity to do so in the face of the unknown. Sincerely, Hussein

"The peace process is going through a crisis, a real crisis," Kabariti said following his meeting with Mordechai, adding that Hussein would ask US President Bill Clinton to press Israel to reconsider its moves to build on Har Homa at a White House meeting set for March 18.

"No normal ties can be established with Jordan ... so long as Jerusalem is targeted and settlements are being constructed," Kabariti told parliament. However, an upbeat Mordechai said relations had their ups and downs, but in the long run tensions would subside and peace would reign not only among Israel and Jordan, Egypt, and the Palestinians, but also with other Arab countries as well.

"In my eyes, and in the eyes of the king, we have to strengthen the process and progress and find all possible ways to overcome the obstacles," Mordechai said. "I was very much impressed with the king's determination, faith, and readiness to help in every way in order to progress in the region to a totally different situation. "We didn't talk about any mes-

sages. We talked about the situation now and the future." Just as he had in his visit to Egypt in December, Mordechai was able to forge a rapport with the Jordanian leadership. Mordechai said his private talk with the king, which had been scheduled for just a quarter of an hour but stretched to over 50 minutes, was very warm and friendly. "Things which [King Hussein] told me in private certainly strengthened in me that the peace between us is so strong and stable and based on faith and interests and good relations that no one can bother it." Liat Collins adds: After news of the letter spread through the Knesset, opposition MKs launched an attack on Netanyahu yesterday, while he was in Moscow. Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said: "The prime minister has turned into a strategic threat on the security and wellbeing of the state. He has completely lost the confidence of even those who were happy he was elected." Several MKs submitted urgent motions to the agenda on the letter.

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GRAPEVINE

Hospital benefit a 'Dutch treat'

By GREER FAY CASPARIAN

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that the overwhelming majority of foreign missions are not located in the capital, most foreign diplomats whose children are born in Israel prefer to have them delivered in Jerusalem, and those that do usually opt for Misgav Ladach hospital. Among them are Dutch Ambassador Christiana Kroner and her wife Harriet, who soon after the birth of their first child, a daughter, hosted a Misgav Ladach benefit dinner and concert at their Herzliya Pituah residence.

not in the same political camp as most of the other invitees, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was also on hand to join the celebrations.

A JERUSALEM landmark for nearly 60 years, Cafe Atara, closed last year to make way for Burger King. When Uri Greenspan, grandson of Atara's founder, pledged to open another outlet close to the famous eatery's original site, few people really believed him. But true to his promise, he's opening up next month just a block away from his old stomping ground on the ruins of Cafe Aino, another famous capital landmark which closed soon after Atara.

THE CUTS that Jerusalem Post business editor Amotz Asa-Eli usually has in mind are of a fiscal nature. But last Sunday, his mind was on the unkindest cut of all when he and his wife Nurit celebrated the circumcision of their son Aviad. To his credit, the baby went through the ordeal like a true hero of Israel and hardly made a peep.

WELL KNOWN though he may be, Harrison Ford had a few uncomfortable moments when he went to the bank to make a withdrawal and



From right to left: Dutch Ambassador Kroner, Dr. Stark, Leah Rabin and Mrs. Kroner.

adviser to the PNA's Ministry of Health, and Yedida Lahav, whose grandfather was one of the founders of Misgav Ladach. The Kroners have previously hosted kosher catered functions in support of Misgav Ladach, Ben-Issie Shapiro, and other worthwhile causes.

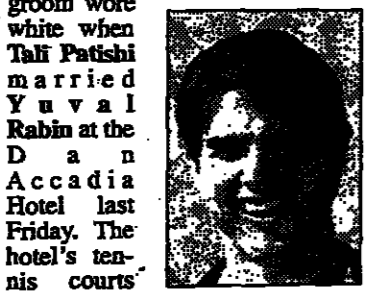
the teller failed to recognize him. When the teller asked for some ID, Ford had nothing with him to prove his identity. Wanting to be helpful, the teller asked Ford to name his best on-screen friend in Star Wars. Ford promptly supplied the correct answer and was able to make his transaction.

BOTH THE bride and the mother

of the groom wore white when Tali Patishi married Yuval Rabin at the D'Accadia Hotel last Friday. The hotel's tennis courts have for years been frequented by Leah Rabin, and the late Yitzhak Rabin used to play there as well. Because this marriage was the second time around for both, the bride nixed the idea of a wedding gown and chose to wear a pants suit, which, though it didn't quite go with her tiered veil, was a concession to tradition. Limited to some 40 relatives and close friends, the guest list was top heavy with Yitzhak Rabin's closest political and military cronies, such as Eitam Haber, Shimon Peres, Danny Yatom, Ephraim Speh, Haim Ramon, Ehud Barak, Ya'acov Peri, Itzhak Kollek and Amnon Lipkin-Shahak. While

THE STARS OF

the projected film on the lives of comedy duo Laurel and Hardy will be Tom Cruise and John Travolta. Guess who's going to step into whose shoes? AFTER 15 tempestuous years together without the benefit of marriage, Farrah Fawcett, 50, and Ryan O'Neal, 55, have decided to call it quits. Previously married to Lee Majors, Fawcett took up with O'Neal, once a close friend of Majors's, when the latter asked him to look after her while he was away. The Fawcett/O'Neal union produced a son, 12, and lots of fights provoked by O'Neal's frequent dalliances with other tinsel-town lovelies. The couple have split up before. But the current rift, they say, is for keeps.



Laurel and Hardy? Tom Cruise (left) and John Travolta.

WHEN Brandeis University President Dr. Jehuda Reinharz talks about the American Jewish community, he sounds like a doctor trying to get a patient to give up smoking: he knows what the problem is, he just has to get his patient to do something about it.

As head of the prestigious Jewish-sponsored but non-sectarian university, recently voted number one in a poll of US universities (excluding Ivy League ones), Reinharz feels uniquely qualified to make a prognosis, and equally determined to see to it that the patient heeds his advice. Couching his concern in Biblical terms, Reinharz, the first Israeli-born president of a major US university, speaks of "the three makot," or plagues, that threaten American Jewry: drift, irrelevance and barriers.

Too many are "simply drifting away," he says, with committed Jews more interested in volunteering for non-Jewish causes than Jewish ones, and non-committed Jews lost because "when a Jew says he wants to go to synagogue on the High Holidays, we say: 'Only with a ticket.'"

He insists the way to overcome the irrelevance of Judaism to so many American Jews is "to make Judaism meaningful. What we have to figure out is how to get into the head of the new generation," whether that means via CDs, the Internet, or through providing more content to those Jews who are interested.

Lastly, he believes "we've placed barriers in the way of other Jews becoming Jews," and argues that we must "do everything we can" to try to bring in as many people as possible into the Jewish fold because, quite simply, "looking at it from a standpoint of Klal Yisrael, we can't afford to lose anyone else."

Offering figures to back his concern about the threat to American Jewry's future, he notes that in the 1960's, American Jewry totaled 3.3% of the American population. Today that figure has slumped to 2.1%. "We don't replace ourselves," he says, adding, "Being married to a Jew in the US is no guarantee for continuity."

There are, no doubt, what he calls "pockets of strength," places like his own university, which has (together with Hadassah) established the first International Research Center on Jewish Women, and has the largest, most comprehensive Judaica facility outside of Israel. Of its 2,900 undergraduate and 1,000 graduate students, 60 percent are Jewish, and even non-Jews attending find that "the Judaic



Reinharz: "Three plagues threaten American Jewry: drift, irrelevance and barriers."

Brandeis University president Dr. Jehuda Reinharz, prescribes cures for the problems ailing American Jewry. Aryeh Dean Cohen reports

aspect of learning permeates" their studies, according to Reinharz. Reinharz also talks of the attempts by American Jewry to "find a renaissance in one way or another," expressed in increased interest in adult education, day schools, and summer camps. But he's still wor-

He believes that in fact this is partly an excuse cited for a drop in interest in Israel, and that there are other, new problems to be confronted at home. One of the largest is the rise of Islam in the US. Whereas in 1960 there were only 100,000 people identifying themselves as Muslims in America, today that figure has spiraled to 6-8,000,000. Fourteen percent of all immigrants to the US today are Muslims, and more people in the US convert to Islam than any other religion. It's "no coincidence" that President Bill Clinton recently went to pay homage to the Muslim community after the Ramadan fast, says Reinharz.

Reinharz's strategy for dealing with the rise of Islam in the US is "to become informed. We have to try to forge alliances with the Muslim community." He does not believe that community is at heart fundamentalist, and believes American Jews and Muslims have some points

"We should stop trying to keep people out, and try instead to bring them into the Jewish fold."

"We have to try to forge alliances with the Moslem community."

ried by the numbers. And with anti-Semitism, Soviet Jewry and the matter of Israel's survival seemingly off the agenda, "a search is on today for new content and new meaning" in the community.

in common. "The Muslims are also worried about assimilation and discrimination," he says. PRESERVING THE American Jewish community means strengthening its Jewish identity, and one of the pillars of that identity has been

PARENTING

Getting your child into the homework habit

By RUTH MASON

My nine-year-old won't do his homework. What can I do? Tom Gumpel, PhD, lecturer, department of special education, School of Education, Hebrew University, answers: Israeli teachers tend to give a lot of homework and homework will not go away. Your child needs to realize this. Until your son can do his homework independently, it may be necessary for a parent or someone else to sit with him while he does his homework. If it is a parent who does this, it is important that it be the parent who has the least rocky, most solid relationship with the child, not just the parent who hap-

pens to be home at the time. Keep it calm. If it's going to be confrontational, it will be detrimental. If doing homework together turns into a source of friction, you should consider getting a private tutor, a "big brother" or a high-school student to do it with the child.

Any time there are homework problems, it is important to discuss it with the child at a time when there is no homework involved, and to come to some kind of general understanding that there is a problem and together you need to think of ways to solve it. The worst time to have this discussion is while the child is trying to do homework.

You need to agree on a set time to do homework. Don't wait until

7 p.m. when he comes back from judo. He'll be too tired. It's best to give the child some time to eat and relax a bit when he comes home from school. It must be clear that homework then comes instead of any other privilege. If he doesn't do his homework, the privileges will wait. It's often a good idea to make a behavioral contract with the child. Most children in Israel get homework five days a week. Post a calendar on the fridge and have the child mark an "X" on each day that he has done his homework. And reward his successes. Arrange the contract so that success is attainable at the very begin-

ning. In other words, let the initial criteria be a little too easy, because you need to hook your fish. You might offer a small reward for every two days of homework done.

Before you start a homework session, it's a good idea to go through the assignments with the child and set up the order in which the work will be done. One helpful trick is to put two empty bowls in front of the child, count out the number of problems or questions he has to do and place that number of marbles in one bowl. Each time he finishes a problem, he takes a marble out of the full bowl and

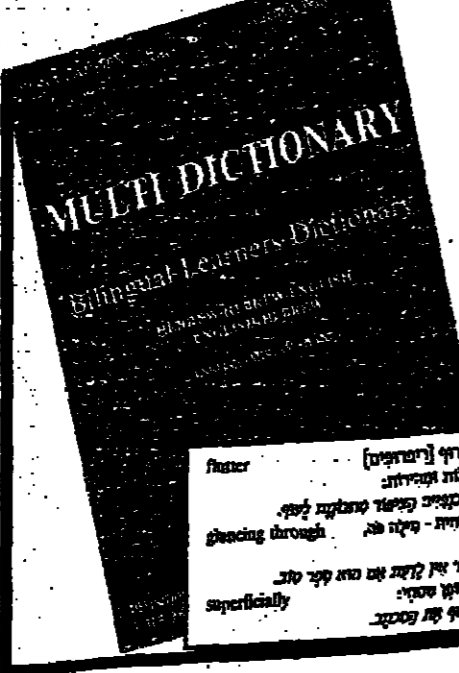
puts it in the empty one. You can also use jelly beans or M&Ms and let the child eat them when he finishes the problems. Kids love this.

People learn best when they feel they've been effective. The chart and the marbles show the kids they've been effective. Children who have trouble doing homework need a lot of reinforcement.

Children only learn internal control after having external control built around them. Your presence, the contract and the marbles act as a kind of a scaffold for your child. Once he's in the swing of things, you can start to gradually remove some of these external controls.

book department QUITE POSSIBLY THE ONLY DICTIONARY YOU'LL NEED TO LEARN HEBREW

The MULTI DICTIONARY, published by Ad, is a super comprehensive learners' dictionary for beginner and advanced levels. Its most valuable asset lies in its structure and the abundance of relevant information to aid the student. Softcover, over 900 pages.



The Hebrew-Hebrew-English dictionary contains: Hebrew definitions, sample sentences and English translations; Spelling, vowelization, stress; Verbs presented in third person with idiomatic examples, plus verb "family"; Nouns presented with grammatical gender plus plural; Adjectives presented in singular masculine plus feminine and plural form.

Other relevant information: Word lists by subject, Verb conjugation tables, Interpersonal communication phrases, Medical terminology, Holidays and customs, Verb list in infinitive form, "Hebraized" foreign words, English-Hebrew dictionary with page cross-reference. Books, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. Please send me _____ copies of: MULTI DICTIONARY at NIS 85 each. Hardcover at NIS99 each. Postage in Israel: one copy NIS 6, two or more NIS 10 or airmail NIS 25 per copy. Total NIS: _____ Enclosed check payable to The Jerusalem Post, or credit card details. Please list gift recipient's name, address and message separately. [] Visa [] Isc/MCD [] Diners [] AmEx. CC No. _____ Exp. _____ Name _____ Address _____ City _____ Code _____ Phone (day) _____ ID No. _____ Signature _____

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: AMEX, NASDAQ, LAST CHANGE. Lists various Israeli companies and their share prices.

MISHTANIM LEADING ISSUES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists Mishtanim leading issues and their price changes.

NYSE

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists NYSE stocks and their price changes.

NYSE

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists NYSE stocks and their price changes.

TASE ROUNDUP Rate worries hit shares

Mishtanim 251.70 ▼ 1.69% Maof 259.20 ▼ 1.59%

By ROBERT DANIEL Shares dropped on concern that Friday's consumer price index report might not prompt the central bank to cut interest rates.

Dead Sea Bromine Ltd. went down 4 percent to NIS 19.66 and Blue Square Properties and Supersol Investments Ltd. went down 4.25% and 3% to 32.61 and 10.11 respectively.

Israel Chemicals Ltd. was the most-active issue, dropping 1.25% to NIS 3.99 on NIS 5.8m. of shares traded.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists international shares and their price changes.

NEW YORK

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists New York stocks and their price changes.

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NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: Last Change. Lists New York market indexes and their changes.

OTHER STOCK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: Last Change. Lists other stock market indexes and their changes.

DOLLAR CROSS-RATES (US)

Table with columns: Last Change. Lists dollar cross-rates and their changes.

NEW YORK

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WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - London's FTSE 100 index of leading shares finished at its sixth consecutive record close...

FRANKFURT - Bulls continued to hold sway on the German share market, as the DAX index surged in bourse trade...

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average edged into record ground for a second session yesterday...

WALL STREET REPORT Dow edges higher

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average edged into record ground for a second session yesterday...

MIGDAL Continued from Page 1

Generali, which holds a minority stake in the company, made the announcement to the stock exchange after trading ended on Monday evening.

Generali claims it has no legal obligation to pay out on the policies, citing two main reasons: proof of death was not provided and valid claims were not made before the company had its assets seized by eastern European governments after the war.

At least 50 people within Israel already have come forward - with either policies or other documentation - claiming their families remained unpaid by Generali.

While there is a possibility that thousands of such unpaid policies exist, it is accepted by all concerned that at the most several hundred families will be able to provide the relevant documents.

However, Knesset restitutions of Jewish property sub-committee chairman MK Avraham Herschson (Likud) is demanding an Israeli government representative be allowed full access to Generali's archives to ascertain just how many policies remain unpaid, something Generali has so far refused to permit.

"If Generali doesn't come up with compensation for the families by 2 p.m. [today], we'll take this matter to the public," Kleiner said yesterday.

The company has so far given no indication that it intends to comply with Kleiner's demand. Generali has decided to respond to the various comments made last night only during today's Knesset meeting.

US COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Last Change. Lists US commodities and their price changes.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Last Change. Lists London commodities and their price changes.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with columns: Last Change. Lists spot market metals and their price changes.

NEW YORK METAL FIXES

Table with columns: Last Change. Lists New York metal fixes and their price changes.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table with columns: Last Change. Lists London metal fixes and their price changes.

FOREIGN FINANCIAL DATA COURTESY OF COMMSTOCK TRADING LTD.

Table with columns: Last Change. Lists foreign financial data and their price changes.

PARIS

Table with columns: Last Change. Lists Paris stocks and their price changes.

FRANKFURT

Table with columns: Last Change. Lists Frankfurt stocks and their price changes.

TEI AVIV SHARES DATA

Mediteranean Investments, Tel. 09-958-5873. All other data supplied by Commstock Trading Ltd.

Due to technical failures data may be inaccurate. The Jerusalem Post will not be held responsible for the consequences of any transaction made on the basis of these data.

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EMERGENCY NUMBERS

FIRE 102 FIRST AID 101 Magen David Adom In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country.

TEI AVIV Museums

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 520.05 per line, including VAT, per month.

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT
Denis Cohen leads the Musica Nova Ensemble in Yuval Shaked's Octet...



Saxophonist Ari Brown plays in Jerusalem.

DEBATE

HELEN KAYE
The third of the late Emile Habibi Memorial Panels deals with the cultural stimuli our children get from books and theater...

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN
The Discovery Channel is dedicating its programming this evening to women. At 8, Women Who Kill tells the story of several British women...

women's obsession with perfection and dieting and also suggest healthy ways to lose weight.

ETV 2 screens Sweet Home Chicago, an excellent documentary on the history of Chicago blues recording company Chess Records...

JAZZ & WORLD MUSIC

HELEN KAYE
Last here playing with Elvin Jones at the Eilat Jazz Festival, tenor saxophonist Ari Brown returns as the last star of the Jazz at the Museum series...

Eyal Sela and Hijaz play music from the Balkans, Turkey and the Arab classical tradition tonight at the Ems World Music Center...

TV

CHANNEL 1
6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

CHANNEL 2
8:15 Today's Program
8:30 Scoobydoo
8:58 This Morning
9:55 Senora
10:45 Dynasty (pt)
11:40 The Law (pt)
12:30 Health Magazine

CHANNEL 3
16:00 Cartoons
16:30 The Thirst of Years
17:15 Discussion in Arabic
18:05 Amores
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Documentary in Russian
20:00 News
20:45 Conference

CHANNEL 4
8:00 News flash
8:31 News in Arabic
8:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

CHANNEL 5
6:30 Bodies in Motion
6:50 Bodies in Motion
18:30 Soccer: UEFA Cup - Newcastle vs. Monaco
18:50 National League Volleyball
19:45 NCAA Basketball
21:00 Soccer: Champions League: Milan, Jtd. vs. FC Porto - live

CHANNEL 6
6:00 Executive (live)
6:30 VIP
7:30 The Ticket
7:30 NBC Nightly News with news anchor Katie Couric
8:00 European Squawk Box
11:00 European Money Wheel
18:00 CNBC Squawk Box (US)
17:00 Homes and Gardens: Awesome Interiors
17:30 Star Gardens
18:00 MSNBC - The Site
19:00 National Geographic Television
20:00 The Ticket
20:30 VIP
21:00 Dateline
22:00 Euro PGA Tour: Moroccan Open
23:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno
2:00 Late Night with Conan O'Brien
1:00 Later
1:30 NBC Nightly News
2:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno
3:00 MSNBC

CHANNEL 7
8:00 Dallas (pt)
8:00 One Life to Live (pt)
8:45 The Young and the Restless (pt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives (pt)
11:15 Angina (pt)
12:00 Barney Jones
12:45 The Streets of San Francisco
13:35 Duet
14:00 Dallas
14:00 Days of Our Lives
15:35 The Nanny
16:00 Hercules
16:45 Zingra
17:00 The Tonight Show with Guy Fines
18:00 Local broadcast
18:30 One Life to Live

CHANNEL 8
6:00 Executive (live)
6:30 VIP
7:30 The Ticket
7:30 NBC Nightly News with news anchor Katie Couric
8:00 European Squawk Box
11:00 European Money Wheel
18:00 CNBC Squawk Box (US)
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CHANNEL 9
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PRIME TIME TV

Table with columns for time slots (18:30, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00, 23:00) and program titles like News, Newsflash, The Cape, No Man's Land, Keeping Up Appearances.

of several generations... family by the Tzavari brothers (117 mins.)

6:00 Open University - Take a Giant Step: Sex Games, Politics

8:00 Open University - Take a Giant Step: Sex Games, Politics

8:30 Cartoons
8:30 Nils Holgerson
8:30 The Center of Things (pt)
9:45 Pink Panther
10:05 The Center of Things (pt)

8:00 Dallas (pt)
8:00 One Life to Live (pt)
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Cryptic crossword puzzle with clues and solutions. Clues include '7 She's a survivor (5)', '10 Powerful man is an aid to going straight (5)', '15 Fastener to function well? Almost (5)'. Solutions include '7 She's a survivor (5)', '10 Powerful man is an aid to going straight (5)', '15 Fastener to function well? Almost (5)'.

Standard crossword puzzle with clues and solutions. Clues include '1 Passionate relationship, nothing connected with business (4,6)', '6 Vessel displays royal monogram we inscribed (4)', '10 Powerful man is an aid to going straight (5)'. Solutions include '1 Passionate relationship, nothing connected with business (4,6)', '6 Vessel displays royal monogram we inscribed (4)', '10 Powerful man is an aid to going straight (5)'.

Quick crossword puzzle with clues and solutions. Clues include '7 Overindulge (6)', '8 US five-cent coin (6)', '10 Theft (7)', '11 Discourage (5)', '12 Every one (4)', '13 Make amends (5)', '17 Torment (5)', '18 Ray of light (4)', '22 Modify (5)', '23 Runaway prisoner (7)', '24 Provoked (6)', '25 Away (6)'. Solutions include '7 Overindulge (6)', '8 US five-cent coin (6)', '10 Theft (7)', '11 Discourage (5)', '12 Every one (4)', '13 Make amends (5)', '17 Torment (5)', '18 Ray of light (4)', '22 Modify (5)', '23 Runaway prisoner (7)', '24 Provoked (6)', '25 Away (6)'.

MOVIES

Movie listings for various theaters including Jerusalem, Hadera, Kfar Sava, Ramat Hasharon, Kiryat Shmona, Rehovot, and Tel Aviv. Listings include titles like 'The Darkening', 'The Cruel Heart', 'The Cruel Heart', 'The Cruel Heart', 'The Cruel Heart', 'The Cruel Heart'.

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Vertical text on the right margin, possibly a page number or identifier.

NEWS

in brief

Lipkin-Shahak to South Africa

Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak departed yesterday for visits to South Africa and then Thailand...



Lipkin-Shahak (IDF Spokesman)

Turkish defense minister to visit

Turkey's defense minister will visit here early next month, stepping up contacts in the defense field...

Preferential mortgages to be renewed

Low-interest mortgages for national priority areas will be renewed in the next few days...

PM: Russia visit a success
Yeltsin says Russia will not supply advanced arms to Syria

News agencies

MOSCOW - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu completed his state visit to Russia yesterday, saying the trip has created a partnership and friendship between the two states.

Yeltsin said Russia intends to play an active role in the Middle East peace process and urged Netanyahu to advance talks with the Palestinians.

focused largely on economic and cultural cooperation. Israel still is relying on US mediation in the Middle East - although Netanyahu praised Russia's "balancing" role in the region.

welcome you in the unified Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, which forever will stay united and under Israel's sovereignty.

WEATHER section with map of Israel and weather forecasts for various cities like Haifa, Tiberias, Afula, Samaria, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Beer Sheva, Dead Sea, and Eilat.

AROUND THE WORLD

Table with columns for city, low, high, and weather conditions for various international locations.

Expert warns of earthquake danger

Three potentially devastating dangers to the country were discussed yesterday by the Knesset Science and Technology Committee...

Winning cards and numbers

The winning cards in yesterday's daily chance draw were the 9 of spades, 7 of hearts, ace of diamonds, and king of clubs.

US institution in capital not linked to PA

The United States has been given assurances by the government that the eastern Jerusalem office of a US organization...



Anglican condemnation
The Most Reverend Samir Katiby of Jerusalem (left) and Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey chat before a procession in Jerusalem's St. George's Cathedral yesterday.

Doctors demand: Ease hospital overcrowding

Health Ministry Director-General Gabi Barabash was due late last night to meet with heads of the Israel Medical Association to discuss doctors' demands for increased manpower and funds to reduce overcrowding in public hospitals.

AT THE KNESSET

Organization for terror victims bill passes

The Knesset yesterday passed the second and third readings of a bill which will create an organization to represent terror victims...

Under the new law, terror victims or their surviving relatives will automatically have membership fees to the organization deducted from their compensation.

Parents' debts won't affect child allowance
The Income Tax Authority will no longer be able to put a lien on child allowance payments because of the debts of parents...

An issue of defense or environment?
MK Rafi Elul (Labor) is appealing to Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Uzi Landau...

MK: Prime minister is over-protected
MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) has written to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Deputy Premier Moshe Katzav asking for a discussion on the issue of protection for the premier.

Travel advertisement for Jordan, Egypt, and Israel, featuring 'MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS' and 'SEASON'S SPECIAL' offers.

Book advertisement for 'Guide to the Golan Heights' by Aviva Bar-Am and Yisrael Shalev, published by the Jerusalem Post.

MIFED advertisement for the E.A. Fiera Internazionale di Milano, held from October 19-24, 1997.

Police first visited the NDI office on February 27 and then again on Monday, to enquire about the organization's connection with the Palestinian Authority...

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'مكتبة الاصل'